

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A ~~protective~~ cover of claim 8 wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective~~ cover of claim 8 further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier~~ cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is a message of stenciled letters.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier~~ cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is an electrical/electronic circuit comprising one or more lighting elements configured to display a message or image.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier~~ cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is one or more magnetically mounted objects of a ferro-magnetic material disposed on metallic surface.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier~~ cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is hook-and-loop materials or a chalkboard surface.
8. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:
  - a molded plastic article having rigid or semi-rigid opaque front and back panels spaced apart by six inches or more, each panel having a corresponding bottom edge;
  - a semi-circular side panel connecting the front and back panels, leaving a slot open at the bottom

to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; and

wherein the front and back panels smoothly transition through the side panel without sharp edges.

9. (Previously Presented) The cover of claim 8, wherein the side panel has an outermost edge that is arc-shaped when viewing the front or back so as to correspond to the semi-circular mid-section of the guard rail.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

a molded plastic article having rigid or semi-rigid front and back panels spaced apart by six inches or more, each panel having opposing bottom edges connected to a semi-circular upper portion corresponding to the semi-circular mid-section of the guard rail;

a semi-circular side panel connecting the front and back panels, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; and

wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective~~ cover of claim 11, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective~~ cover of claim 11, wherein at least one of the front and back panels is opaque.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective~~ cover of claim 11, wherein the front and back panels smoothly transition through semi-circular side edges corresponding to the tubular metal guard rail.

16. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

spaced-apart, opaque, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective~~ cover of claim 16, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective~~ cover of claim 16, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

19. (Previously Presented) A guard rail assembly, comprising:

a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends;

a guard rail cover including two spaced-apart, opaque, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective cover~~ assembly of claim 19, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective cover~~ assembly of claim 19, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.